

Creative thinking for continued compliance-based trainings

While COVID-19 has affected the scope of how we interact with our various constituencies, the demand for certain programs remains unabated. For over 16 years, Clemson Extension, in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), has provided two compliance-based training and certification programs to address stormwater plan review and inspection of permitted SC construction sites.

The Certified Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Inspector (CEPSCI) and Certified Stormwater Plan Reviewer (CSPR) programs educate and certify individuals in the areas of erosion prevention and sediment control. From proper design and review of stormwater plans to installation, maintenance, and inspection of construction site BMPs, both courses focus on meeting regulatory and compliance requirements. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the cancellation of all in-person CEPSCI and CSPR training courses that hundreds of personnel rely on each year for certification and recertification.

Comprised of Extension specialists, associates, and agents partnering with state colleagues, the team set out to provide alternative solutions to in-person instruction. From May 2020 to December 2021, the team created, organized, and offered five distinct and separate courses (some multiple times) utilizing three online platforms and facilitating virtual instruction to 1,982 participants. Courses occurred synchronously and asynchronously online, using remote proctoring software for certification exams.

In addition to reduced-capacity in-person offerings, the CEPSCI & CSPR teams will continue to offer online and remote course options as SC residents and the world experience extraordinary circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Haley Parent

Haley Parent is a Water Resources Extension Agent stationed on Clemson University's campus. In this role, she serves as a Program Coordinator on campus for Carolina Clear, and assists a team in coordinating the Certified Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Inspector (CEPSCI) & Certified Stormwater Plan Reviewer (CSPR) courses. Haley works with Clemson University student groups, faculty/staff, local schools, citizens, and professionals to educate and provide outreach and public involvement opportunities related to stormwater, water quality and watershed awareness. She also partners with Water Resource Agents in Anderson and Pickens county educating and involving residents in stormwater management through the Anderson & Pickens Stormwater Partners consortium.

Jeremy Pike

Jeremy Pike is an Extension Associate in the Department of Agricultural Sciences at Clemson University. He has over 20 years of research and instructing experience at Clemson. His research has focused on water quality and aquatic community responses in relationship with landscape stressors, the majority of which have been related to sedimentation and ecosystem restoration. He has instructed numerous undergraduate and graduate courses including Stream Ecology, Wetland Ecology, Watershed Management and Techniques in Natural Resources. Additionally, he has presented at national, state, and local meetings on topics including stream restoration, water quality

and wetland management. Pike joined Clemson Extension in 2021 and currently manages two compliance-based Extension programs while he continues passing on his research experiences.

Calvin Sawyer, PhD

Calvin Sawyer, PhD - is a Professor in the Department of Agricultural Sciences at Clemson University and a Water Resources Extension Specialist. He routinely provides water quality, water quantity and stormwater-related information to various clientele groups, including homeowners, community and government officials, public works and planning staffs, engineers, landscape architects, developers, contractors, and other professional decision-makers. His Extension programming has concentrated on strategies to effectively inform and educate targeted constituencies about water resources and the role they play in South Carolina's economy, environmental health, and overall quality of life.